

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace drawing sheet 2/5 of record with enclosed replacement drawing sheet 2/5. The attached drawing sheet should now clearly have reference numeral "2e" for the support hole formed in the second support arm correctly replaced with reference numeral "2e'."

No new matter is added by this amendment, as support may be found in paragraph [0024] of the present application.

**REMARKS**

Please reconsider this application in view of the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully reconsidering this application. Furthermore, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-6 contain allowable subject matter.

**Drawings**

The drawings of the present application were objected to because reference numeral “2e” is not shown. A replacement drawing sheet 2/5, containing Figure 4, is submitted herewith to clearly show the reference numeral “2e” for the support hole formed in the second support arm. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

**Claim Amendments**

Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended to clarify the present invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define “an outer opening part thereof” and the “coiled spring,” and claims 1 and 3 have been amended to more clearly define “fitted to.” Further, claims 4-6 have been amended to clearly recite only one damper unit, rather than multiple damper units, within the hinge device. No new matter is added by this amendment, as support may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0033] and [0034].

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 1, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 4, and 5 have been amended to clarify the present invention. To the extent that these rejections still apply to amended claims 1, 4, and 5, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the omitted essential elements are at least one more “damper unit” because the disclosure does not show any workable embodiment having only “a (single) damper unit including a stator, (and) a rotor,” as recited in claim 1. However, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application *does* recite a workable embodiment with only one damper unit. For example, as recited in the last sentence of paragraph [0033], it is “accepted that only one of damper units 16, 17 is employed,” rather than having an embodiment using both of damper units 16, 17. Each of the damper units 16, 17 are used to prohibit the second hinge member 3 from making a high speed turn with respect to the first hinge member 2, thereby facilitating the second hinge member 3 to instead make a low speed turn. See paragraphs [0031] and [0032] of the present application. As such, because both damper units 16, 17 are used to prohibit the high speed turn of the second hinge member 3, the use of two damper units 16, 17 together may be redundant, and only one damper unit 16 or 17 may be necessary. Thus, rather than reciting multiple damper units in claim 1, only “a damper unit including a stator, (and) a rotor,” is recited. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Next, the Examiner stated that in claim 1, line 18, it could not be understood to what part the limitation “an outer opening part thereof” was referring. As such, claim 1 has been amended to instead recite “an outer opening part of said support through-hole” to clearly define the reference of the outer opening part. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, the Examiner stated that the term “fitted to,” which is used repeatedly through the claims, is not clearly defined in the claims or specification, and may have multiple meanings. Therefore, claim 1, and also claims 3 and 5, have been amended to instead recite “received within and adjacent to” to clarify the meaning of the claim language. The use of “received within and adjacent to” clarifies the claimed invention by describing the fitting of the hinge pin with the support hole and the support through-hole and by describing the fitting of the damper unit with the engagement hole of the connecting plate. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Finally, the Examiner stated that lines 30-34 of claim 1 lack structural relationship and render the claim indefinite because the coil spring has no functional effect and must be related to additional moveable elements to generate a biasing force. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly describe the coiled spring's function and describe the coiled spring's position. Specifically, as recited in claim 1, the coiled spring 18 turn biases the connecting cylindrical part 3a of the second hinge member 3 with respect to at least one of the first support arm part 2a and the second support arm part 2b of the first hinge member 2. As such, the coiled spring 18 may bias the second hinge member 3 from an open position to a closed position against the first hinge member 2, *not* against the hinge pin 9. See paragraph [0034] of the present application. In addition, as recited in claim 1, the coiled spring 18 is disposed

(positioned) between an inner peripheral surface of the connecting cylindrical part 3a and an outer peripheral surface of the hinge pin 9. See Figure 4 of the present application. Thus, although the coiled spring is disposed between the second hinge member and the hinge pin, the coiled spring generates the biasing force between the first hinge member and the second hinge member, *not* the second hinge member and the hinge pin. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to claim 4, the Examiner stated that it could not be understood how a single stator of a damper unit, and then again a single rotor of a damper unit, could each be received in both the support through-hole and the support hole. Claim 4 has been amended to instead recite “only one of the support through-hole and the support hole,” rather than both of the holes. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to claim 5, the Examiner stated that it is not clear what the “said connecting plates” were referring to and how the connecting plates were structurally related to base claims 4 and 1. Claim 5 has been amended to instead recite only “a connecting plate” and define the connecting plate with respect to the support through-hole and the support hole. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 12088/031001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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